

Utah Ice Fishing

By TubeDude

My first ice fishing ventures...like a few other “GOBs” (good ol’ boys)...were on Utah Lake in the 1960s. In those days, any water that harbored trout was closed to all fishing from about the first of November to the first of the following June. But, since Utah Lake was not a trout pond it was open to whatever abuse anglers wanted to inflict upon it.

We early “cold-footers” had none of the modern niceties and refinements. Our “poles” were the same rods with which we fished for trout during warmer months. No special ice rods, reels or lines. No fancy schmancy ice jigs. No special baits like wax worms, spikes or other exotic offerings. Lures were either a hammered nickel spoon...jigged through the hole...with or without worm sweetener...or a simple hook, sinker and worm just like we were fishing for trout. And we caught fish.

There were no high-tech ice suits that would float you if you went through the ice. And work boots or 3-buckle galoshes sufficed for deep snow, slush or slick ice. No cleats and no well-insulated boots. On cold days we got to do a lot of “ice dancing” to try to keep some feeling in our toes.

Axes, crowbars or posthole digging tools were used for punching through the ice. Until the early 1980s nobody in Utah owned even a hand crank ice auger. And power augers didn’t show up until years later. That usually meant that we didn’t move around much to find fish. Because every time we beat a hole in the ice we usually got wet...both from perspiration and splashing water from the hole being chopped.

And while we’re at it, there were no propane heaters, special ice sonars, ice tents or sturdy ice sleds with which to drag all our gear on and off the ice. If we used anything it was usually one of the kid’s snow sleds.

But, ya know, we still got enough fish to keep our interest alive...and to keep us doing all the foolish things we had to go through to have fun on the ice. There were almost always some white bass hungry enough and foolish enough to wanna play. And we also caught a few walleyes, catfish and even a stray largemouth or two. Any diehard fisherman who is so desperate for a fishing fix that they will fish through a hole in the ice doesn’t need much encouragement to keep on keepin’ on.

One winter in the early 1980s an organized group of anglers petitioned DWR to allow fishing for perch through the ice on Deer Creek reservoir. That lake was historically overrun with perch and DWR agreed to allow a harvest of that species...but all other species (especially trout) had to be released.

The experiment was a resounding success. Drove of curious wannabe ice fisherfolk showed up to poke holes in Deer Creek and to remove some perch. And great was the harvest thereof. However, there were a lot of real tears shed when those folks brought in big beautiful rainbows and brown trout and had to put them back down the holes.

It wasn’t long until angler pressure on DWR got authorization to ice fish other lakes, and ultimately to relax or remove the trout “season” restrictions all together. That began a major surge in ice fishing in Utah.

Today, a trip to any of the popular ice fishing venues reveals a whole host of modern refinements. For one thing, there are the modes of transportation. In addition to the traditional foot traffic, there are folks with 4-wheelers, side by sides, ski mobiles and the newly popular “Snow Dogs”. All have their proponents and all have their strong points and weaknesses in varying conditions of ice, snow, slush, etc.

And if you really wanna get a “discussion” going, bring up the subject of ice fishing sonars and cameras. Modern technology has delivered us a wide range of options. Again, there are champions and nay-sayers for each manufacturer and each model.

Ditto for sleds...with which we haul all of our “necessary” gear. There are several makes and models of basic cargo carriers...in multiple sizes. And creative ice anglers have become proficient at adding rod racks and even adding skis on the bottom to allow the sleds to pull easier in snow. Those who pull their sleds behind power equipment often rig special tow bars too...which helps a lot with stability and control.

One of the big areas of growth and improvement in ice fishing gear is in augers. We still have the old tried and true hand augers, for minimal thickness ice and for reduced weight. And we still see plenty of the heavy gas-powered augers...bulky, smelly and noisy. But in recent years there has been a surge in the use of battery powered augers. For the most part they are lighter and quieter...and they can usually drill a lot of holes on a single battery. The latest and greatest thing in ice augers is the use of powerful electric drills and their high voltage batteries to attach to the drill portion of the auger. Some of these things are truly awesome in their speed, efficiency and durability.

In the early days of ice fishing you could look out over the ice and count the individual anglers. No tents or shelters. Today it is increasingly difficult to see anybody outside their state-of-the-art ice shanties. A well-attended lake becomes a colorful patchwork of ice tents scattered over the better spots. And there is no doubt about it. A nice tent, warmed by a propane heater, makes ice fishing much more endurable, especially for spouses and kids. And what happens in a tent, stays in a tent.

There are still a few newbies or tightwads who continue to ice fish with the same 6 or 7 foot rods they use the rest of the year. Unless they are fishing in the confines of a low ceiling tent it don't make no nevermind. There may be some sacrifices in sensitivity and overall success, but they do work.

Howsomever, with all of the options available in special ice fishing tackle these days, you can pick and choose exactly the combination of length, strength and action you want in a rod for your preferred types of ice fishing. And, depending on which “experts” you believe, there are lots of differences for your brand of ice fishing.

Ford, Chevy or Dodge? What is the best ice fishing line? Again, there are lots to choose from and none are a universal solution to all ice fishing needs. It usually takes some experimentation by the individual angler to find what seems to work best for them...on the waters they fish, for the species they pursue, the size of the fish caught, etc.

The choices in ice fishing lures and baits today are bewildering. The good news is that most of them will catch some fish some of the time. But, fish being what they are the best combination of lure and bait on any given day can be completely different than what worked best the day before...or the hour before. It pays to carry a good assortment of sizes, weights, shapes and colors of lures...and at least two or three different bait options.

Last, but not least, let's talk electronics. We've come a long way since the early days of paper graph sonar. Now we have a bewildering range of options between old style pixel graphs, circular flashers, vertical displays and some that are more like video games than sonars. Whatever type suits your budget and your style of fishing, take the time go get to know it well and to be able to interpret the information displayed. It should have “real time” display of not only the fish, but of your jig too. That enables you to adjust your presentations to intercept the fish and to watch their reactions.

There are also several new entries in the underwater camera department. These things are not only entertaining, but can allow you to watch stealthy fish suck in your offering without even registering on a sensitive spring bobber. Proponents of these cameras all have tales of catching more fish because they can set the hook on fish that did not bite hard enough to be seen or felt on the rod. However, some cameras are better than others and most lose image quality in low visibility, poor light or at greater depth. They work best in depths less than 30 feet with bright light and light snow covering on the ice.

And don't forget about hand-held GPS units. Having a good collection of waypoints for fish-holding structure or underwater contours can help keep you from fishing in fishless water. Once you find a "honey hole" and mark it for future use you shouldn't have to rely on variable shoreline triangulation. And marking your fave spot with a "yellow" waypoint is no longer your only way to "G-Pee-S" it.

FAVE ICE FISHING HOLES

This section includes most of the ice fishing venues favored by Utah anglers. It is not a complete list of all lakes that develop ice caps...just ones that get a recognizable amount of attention each winter and may offer some good fishing.

The information provided...with a few lake exceptions...is mostly very generalized. It has been copied and pasted from the DWR website at <https://dwrapps.utah.gov/fishing/fStart> . If you go to that site, first click on "Find a Place to Fish"...and then on "By Name". Then you can scroll up and down the list to find your desired water. It is worthwhile to do so because there are maps and pictures there that greatly enhance the other info for each of the individual waters listed.

Although this list includes most of the more popular ice fishing venues, I have also put together more expansive writeups on the individual waters of Utah Lake, Willard Bay Reservoir, Starvation Reservoir and Deer Creek Reservoir. They will be available as separate attachments...with pictures and everything.

BEAR LAKE

Description: Bear Lake provides a cold-water sport fishery mainly for cutthroat and lake trout. A Utah or Idaho fishing license is valid on the entire lake. It is located in a beautiful mountain setting and the blue color is produced by suspended carbonates in the water that reflect blue light. [State Park info.](#)

Location: Northern Utah

Directions: From Logan, drive 38 miles east on Highway 89.

Likely to catch: Bonneville Whitefish, Cutthroat Trout/Bear Lake, Lake Trout

Possible to catch: Bear Lake Whitefish, Bonneville Cisco, Rainbow Trout

ICE FISHING NOTES: Bear Lake is deep and gets a lot of wind. This means that it does not cap sufficiently for safe ice fishing most years. There are also open water "bubblers" in many places around the lake, even when the ice cap is several inches thick. Be careful.

BIRCH CREEK

Description: Birch Creek Reservoir is a day-use fishery with public parking and toilet facilities at the foot of the Monte Cristo Mountains in Rich County. This fishery is known for larger tiger trout and rainbow trout.

Location: Woodruff, Utah

Directions: Take Interstate 80 to Evanston, WY. Head north on WY 150 then take UT 16 to Randolph, UT. Turn west on SR 39 and follow for approximately 8 miles. Turn north on dirt road for one mile to Birch Creek site. No winter maintenance.

Likely to catch: Cutthroat Trout/Bonneville, Rainbow Trout, Tiger Trout

CAUSEY

Description: Causey Reservoir is an intermediate-sized reservoir on the south fork of the Ogden River. It is nestled in a picturesque mountain setting and has three arms that branch off the main body. It is a popular destination during the summer for all types of recreation and some years provides good ice fishing.

Location: Northern Utah, near Ogden and Huntsville.

Directions: From Huntsville, drive east about 6 miles on Highway 39 and turn right on Causey Drive.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Kokanee Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Tiger Trout

EAST CANYON

Description: East Canyon State Park offers several recreation areas: Dixie Creek, Big Rock, Rivers Edge, Large Spring, and Mormon Flat. Though amenities vary by area, general park facilities include: boat ramp, tent and RV camping, sites with full hookups, day and group-use areas, restrooms, showers, fish cleaning station and sewage disposal. Reservations may be made online at stateparks.utah.gov or by calling (801) 322-3770 within the Salt Lake City area or toll-free at (800) 322-3770.

Location: Morgan County

Directions: From I-80, take Highway 65 north to the reservoir (access closed during the winter). From Henefer, take Highway 65 to Highway 66 heading west to the reservoir.

Likely to catch: Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Wiper

Possible to catch: Black Crappie, Brown Trout, Kokanee Salmon, Splake, Tiger Trout

ECHO

Description: Echo Reservoir is an intermediate-sized reservoir on the Weber River, located near the junction of I-84 and I-80.

Location: Summit County, north of Coalville

Directions: To access the reservoir, take either the Coalville or Echo I-80 exit, and then follow Echo Dam Road

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Yellow Perch

Possible to catch: Black Crappie, Channel Catfish, Common Carp

ICE FISHING NOTES: Echo is subject to great water level fluctuations. This can greatly influence the quality of ice fishing in any given winter.

ELECTRIC

Description: Electric Lake sits towards the top of Huntington Creek on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The lake is 425 acres and over 200 feet deep in spots. Shore access is limited to the north end and the south end near the dam. A concrete boat ramp is located on the north end of the lake.

Notes: Historically Electric Lake was a brood source for Yellowstone cutthroat trout. The lake still contains the non-native Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Stocking of tiger trout occurred back in 2007 to take advantage of the illegally introduced bait fish the redbreasted sunfish. In 2012 Kokanee

salmon were introduced. The salmon took off and can be seen spawning in Boulger and Upper Huntington Creek above the reservoir from September to November.

Location: Emery County

Directions: Drive south on Highway 10 from Price to Huntington, turn onto Highway 31 and drive about 26 miles

Likely to catch: Cutthroat Trout, Kokanee Salmon, Tiger Trout

Possible to catch: Rainbow Trout

FISH LAKE

Description: Fish Lake is one of Utah's most scenic and popular fishing destinations. It is located in the [Fishlake National Forest](#) southeast of Richfield. This is a natural lake created by fault lines. Fish Lake sits at nearly 9,000 feet in elevation and is surrounded by aspen and conifer forests. (The nearby [Pando aspen clone](#) is believed to be the world's largest living organism.) Fish Lake is deep, with an average depth of 55 feet and a maximum depth of 117 feet. The southeast shoreline (the base of Mytoge Mountain) drops off steeply, while the northwest shore slopes out gently before dropping off.

Fishing opportunities are varied in Fish Lake, with numerous species of trout (rainbow, lake, splake, brown, tiger), yellow perch, and even Kokanee salmon. Fishing can be good year-round and is especially popular in summer and winter. Other recreational opportunities available in the area include camping, hunting, wildlife watching, hiking, and ATV riding (though not in the Fish Lake basin itself). The Fish Lake area is home to mule deer, elk, black bears, and numerous bird species. There is even a small population of moose that were introduced in the 1980s.

Historically, Fish Lake was populated by Colorado River cutthroat trout and sculpin. Numerous fish introductions since the late 1800s - both legal and illegal - have replaced these fish with more than a dozen fish species. The first introductions included rainbow, brown, and lake trout, as well as Utah chubs and Utah suckers. For many years, this fish community provided excellent angling opportunities that drew interest from all across Utah.

Big changes were in store for Fish Lake when yellow perch were illegally introduced in the 1970s. Perch numbers remained relatively low, however, until the introduction of Eurasian water milfoil in the 1980s. This exotic invasive plant mixed with native aquatic plants to form a dense band of vegetation that rings Fish Lake at depths of 4-20 feet. Yellow perch lay their eggs in large masses on vegetation, so the introduction of exotic milfoil led to an increase in perch spawning success. As perch increased in density, they began to have negative effects on other fish species. They competed heavily with stocked trout (primarily rainbows) for small insects and zooplankton. Rainbow trout are fairly inefficient at feeding on the small plankton found in high elevation lakes, so the added competition severely reduced their growth potential. Yellow perch also competed with and preyed on Utah chub fry. For decades, chubs were the primary food source for lake trout, which grew up to 40 pounds in Fish Lake. As Utah chub density decreased, lake trout switched to feeding on rainbow trout. Lake trout don't prey on perch very much because they prefer to eat fish that don't have spines and are rarely in the same type of habitat with perch.

The switch by lake trout to feeding on rainbow trout turned out to be a detriment to both species. Unfortunately, rainbow trout aren't smart enough to avoid lake trout predation and, if stocked at a

small size, they can be entirely wiped out. Even when stocking rainbow trout at "catchable" size (8-10 inches), we estimate that up to half of those fish could be eaten by lake trout. That's a very expensive feeding program, but it's not beneficial to the lake trout either. Lake trout spend the first few years of their life feeding on invertebrates and growing slowly. Once they pass 18-20 inches in length, they'll start to try feeding on fish more. If they switch to complete piscivory (ie. a fish-eating diet), they can rapidly grow to over 20 pounds in just a few years. (Although lake trout can live over 40 years, they don't necessarily take that long to grow to large size. The idea that lake trout grow a pound each year is inaccurate.) However, if they don't switch to piscivory, lake trout can live for decades, feeding on invertebrates and growing to less than 30 inches.

The problem, then, is that a 24-inch lake trout may have a hard time chasing down and eating 10-inch rainbow trout. Since the increase in yellow perch density and decrease in Utah chubs, we have seen a decrease in the number of large lake trout, while small lake trout have increased. This means that fewer lake trout are switching to complete piscivory.

In 2014, a committee of anglers and other interested individuals helped the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources devise a fishery management plan for Fish Lake. The mission of the management plan was to "improve the overall quality and health of the fishery and aquatic environment, while maintaining diversity and increasing overall value to and use by anglers." One of the main goals of the plan was to maintain a healthy lake trout population. One of the actions that resulted from this goal was the addition of Kokanee salmon to Fish Lake in 2015. Kokanee have shown to be a valuable forage for lake trout in other waters (eg. Flaming Gorge Reservoir) and were stocked previously in Fish Lake in the late 1950s, after which they held on for about a decade before disappearing. Since that time, Utah's Kokanee production program has expanded to provide enough fish for regular stocking and also includes the Roaring Judy strain, which is more successful at spawning along lake shorelines. Fish Lake's inlet streams are very small, so the previously introduced salmon were not able to maintain long-term. It is hoped that the lake-spawning fish will be successful enough in Fish Lake to supplement regular stocking in maintaining a viable Kokanee fishery.

Kokanee salmon have already proved a success in adding to the overall sport fishery. They are more effective at feeding on small zooplankton and have regularly reached 17-18 inches in length in 2-3 years after stocking. Even though we stock them at small sizes (2-3 inches), Kokanee salmon are better at avoiding predation right after stocking and are experiencing exceptional survival, compared to rainbow trout. The hope is that, with multiple sizes of salmon available, lake trout can better transition to piscivory and have a prey base that is more abundant and healthier than what has been previously provided by rainbow trout. We are still in the process of evaluating the impact of Kokanee salmon on lake trout, but early results indicate that we may be seeing more lake trout transitioning into larger sizes.

Another recommendation of the management plan was to increase harvest pressure on yellow perch. This effort has benefited from the fact that perch are easy to catch year-round and are quite tasty. Besides encouraging anglers to target perch, regulations have been altered to allow unlimited harvest of yellow perch at Fish Lake. You can also "waste" perch caught here, meaning you can dispose of them without eating them. Because a lot of the perch that anglers catch are too small to eat, they don't want to bother taking them home. In this situation, we

encourage you to kill the fish and drop it back in the water so the nutrients remain in the lake. You can also use perch and their parts as bait in Fish Lake. The most prominent effort to increase perch harvest has been the annual Fish Lake Perch Tournament, held during the winter. This free fishing contest has quickly become the largest fishing contest in Utah, with over 2,000 participants. The design of the contest has evolved as we learned the best way to direct it and now includes the one-day ice fishing contest held in February and a summer-long tagged fishing contest. Small red tags (it looks like a red noodle) have been inserted in thousands of yellow perch at Fish Lake. If you catch one, you can turn the tag in at any of the lake's marinas and resorts and you will be entered for a drawing to be held at the end of the summer. The more tags you turn in, the more chances you have to win prizes.

Fish species stocked annually in Fish Lake include rainbow and splake trout, and Kokanee salmon. Tiger and brown trout are stocked semi-regularly (every few years), while brook and cutthroat trout have been stocked occasionally when extra fish were available. Fish that are sustained through spawning and natural recruitment include lake trout, yellow perch, Utah suckers, Utah chubs, redbreast shiners, and common carp (low density). One more unique fish you may find in Fish Lake is the tiger muskie, a sterile hybrid cross of northern pike and muskellunge. These predators are stocked in nearby Johnson Reservoir and sometimes travel upstream to Fish Lake. The few fish that have made the journey found a paradise of weedy habitat and abundant perch to feed on. Tiger muskies have grown to over 40 inches in Fish Lake and are very visible when sitting in the weeds waiting for a meal to swim by. Muskies have been a little less abundant in Fish Lake in recent years, likely due to reduced stocking and migration conditions in Lake Creek.

Fishing opportunities vary by season at Fish Lake. This is one of the most popular places to ice fish in Utah. In fact, during the last decade, annual ice fishing pressure has surpassed summer fishing. Because of its depth, safe ice usually forms at Fish Lake around the New Year, but may take until mid to late January during mild winters. Safe ice will usually last through March. The ice doesn't often exceed 18 inches in thickness, though snow can pile up deep on top of the ice. Access to the lake on Utah Highway 25 is maintained through the winter, though it can be limited temporarily by heavy snow storms. The Fishlake National Forest, Utah Department of Transportation, and Fish Lake Resorts put a lot of work into maintaining winter access and parking areas. Where you will ice fish depends on what you want to target. Perch and small trout (primarily rainbow and splake) are abundant just outside the weedline (10-20 feet depth) as well as within the weeds where they are more sparse (4-10 feet). Use small jigs and ice flies tipped with meal worms, wax worms, night crawlers, Power Bait, small pieces of perch meat, or kernels of corn. (Corn was legalized as bait at Fish Lake in 2017 and throughout Utah in 2019). If you really want to target high numbers of perch, focus on the north and south ends of the lake, where the weed beds are the widest. Perch are more sparse along the west shore from the Lodge to Bowery Haven. For larger rainbows and splake, move a little deeper (15-40 feet) and scale up your jig and bait in size. You can also find these trout suspended at 15-40 feet over deeper water. Chance catches of tiger, brown, and lake trout, as well as Kokanee salmon, can occur with these methods. Targeting Kokanee through the ice can be difficult, but not impossible. Use your fish finder to look for large schools of fish suspended over deep water.

The winter is one of the best times to target lake trout, especially if you don't have a boat. Head out to deeper water (60-100 feet) and fish on the bottom with large jigs and jigging spoons tipped with cut bait (chub, sucker, perch, minnows). There are two essential tools when ice fishing for lake trout: a fish finder and patience. The fish finder helps you see your jig, the fish, and their response to your offering. Many fish will swim up and look at it for a long time without biting. You may have to jig it, move it up and down, or drop it into the mud to get the fish to bite. Without a fish finder, you'll never know what's going on down there. The patience is necessary because you may go a long time without seeing a fish or getting one to bite. It may be especially hard to stay dedicated when you know that the smaller fish are biting in the shallows. One way to fight boredom is to set up your second rod with a suspended offering for rainbows, splake, or Kokanee. It is pretty typical to catch a handful of "pup" lake trout (less than 30 inches) and hook an occasional larger fish. It is also common to go all day with nothing. Hence the patience.

Due to the shallow northwest shore and thick weeds, shore fishing opportunities are limited at Fish Lake. As the ice recedes, anglers start to pack the shore near the Twin Creek inlet, where deeper water is closer to shore and the weeds aren't as thick. Twin Creek itself is closed to fishing year-round to protect the various fish that run up the creek to spawn. One other opportunity for shore fishing does exist in the spring. At night, splake and even few lake trout head into the very shallow water (1-2 feet) to feed on perch eggs that have been laid. Throw out a piece of cut bait - with no weight - into this shallow water and wait for the fish to pick the bait up. For safety, boats are not allowed on Fish Lake until all the ice is gone. Once that happens, you can also target splake by jigging outside the weedlines in 25-60 feet. Tube jigs and Kastmasters, tipped with cutbait, are effective for splake and an occasional lake trout. You can also use larger jigs (like described for ice fishing) to target lake trout. Lakers will often move up to shallower water in the spring. Many boat anglers will also start trolling for rainbows, Kokanee, and lake trout in the spring.

As spring moves into summer, trolling becomes even more popular. Rainbow and splake trout are regularly caught on pop gear and night crawlers. Many anglers also like to anchor and bait fish for rainbows. Die hard lake trout anglers troll with large crankbaits and hand-carved plugs that imitate rainbow trout. As the weather gets warmer, they fish more and more during early morning hours, often quitting by sunup. Kokanee are targeted by trolling dodgers and squids, using a down rigger to get the rig to depths of 20-60 feet. A fish finder is necessary to find the exact depth for the Kokanee school, though they typically start shallow in spring and go deeper as the summer progresses. Some anglers have also adjusted to Kokanee fishing by adding a squid behind their pop gear and using lead line to get down to the right depth. Perch fishing is good to excellent throughout the spring and summer. Anchor just outside the weeds and use the same techniques that you did through the ice.

During fall, jigging for splake picks up again while perch and rainbows remain active. Kokanee salmon and lake trout shift focus to spawning and become harder to catch. In fact, harvest of Kokanee is closed from September 10 through November 30. This is a great time to observe spawning salmon, however, as they turn bright red, run up streams, and congregate on shorelines and in marinas. Remember that catching fish by hand and snagging are always illegal. Feel free to look at the salmon, but leave them alone.

Notes: Fish Lake Resorts (Fish Lake Lodge, Lakeside Marina and Store) (www.fishlakeresorts.com) and Bowery Haven Resort (www.boweryhaven.com) provide a variety of lodging, camping, food, boat rental, and other services. Boat launching is free at ramps at the Lakeside Marina, Lodge, and Bowery Haven, while docking is available for a fee. The Fishlake National Forest operates three campgrounds at Fish Lake - [Bowery Creek](#), [Doctor Creek](#), and [Mackinaw](#)

There are many other places to fish nearby, including Johnson Reservoir, Sevenmile Creek, UM Creek, the Gooseberry lakes, the Fremont River, Rex Reservoir, Mill Meadow Reservoir, Forsyth Reservoir, Thousand Lake Mountain, Monroe Mountain, Boulder Mountain, Koosharem Reservoir, and Otter Creek Reservoir.

Location: Sevier County, southeast of Richfield

Directions: 40 miles southeast of Richfield via SR-24 and SR-25

Likely to catch: Kokanee Salmon, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Splake, Yellow Perch

Possible to catch: Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Common Carp, Cutthroat Trout/Colorado River, Tiger Muskie, Tiger Trout, Utah Chub, Utah Sucker

GRANTSVILLE

Description: Grantsville Reservoir is a small lake in the desert west of the Oquirrh Mountains at the base of the Stansbury Mountains in Salt Lake County. The lake is primarily used for irrigation water and can suffer large drawdowns in late summer; especially during drought years. Gas boat motors are not permitted on Grantsville Reservoir. Fishing is best early morning and late evening. There is not a lot of cover or fish habitat to target in Grantsville so fishing can be slow, especially mid-day. Boat ramp is on the northwest corner of lake so access from the north is best.

Notes: NO gas motors

Location: Tooele County, west of Grantsville

Directions: From Grantsville, take West Street (Mormon Trail) south for about 3.5 miles to Willow Road/Davenport Road. Take a right on Davenport Road. There are two reservoir turn offs, to the south, from Davenport Road. One is about 0.6 miles and one at 1.1 miles west on Davenport.

Invasive Species to catch: Smallmouth Bass

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout

Possible to catch: Common Carp

HUNTINGTON/MAMMOTH

Description: Huntington Reservoir is also known as Mammoth Reservoir. It is located along Skyline Drive on the northern end of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The reservoir is 120 acres and is located at 9,000 feet elevation.

Notes: The lake regularly produces large tiger trout and contains a small population of native cutthroat trout. Float tubers usually have the best success, but shore fishing with bait and or lures/flyes can also be very productive.

Location: Sanpete County

Directions: Take Highway 31 northwest of Huntington, heading to the top of the canyon

Likely to catch: Tiger Trout

Possible to catch: Cutthroat Trout/Bonneville

HYRUM

Description: Hyrum State Park offers a boat ramp, tent and RV camping, day and group-use area, restrooms, and showers. Reservations may be made online at www.stateparks.utah.gov or by calling (801) 322-3770 within the Salt Lake City area or toll-free at (800) 322-3770. The park is open 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. during the summer, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the winter and is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

Location: Cache County

Directions: Drive seven miles south of Logan to the city of Hyrum on Highway 165.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass

JOE'S VALLEY

Description: Joes Valley Reservoir is a 1,200 acre mid-elevation reservoir located in the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The reservoir has a boat ramp and a Forest Service campground located on the west side of the reservoir.

Notes: Anglers have caught trophy splake up to 16 pounds in the reservoir. In general, fishing is best from mid-October through June. Tiger muskie were stocked in 2009 and have provided additional trophy opportunities spring-fall.

No four wheelers or snowmobiles are permitted on the ice.

Location: Emery County

Directions: Drive south on SR-10 from Price to Orangeville, then turn west on SR-29 and drive about 15 miles

Likely to catch: Cutthroat Trout, Splake, Tiger Muskie

Possible to catch: Rainbow Trout, Tiger Trout

JORDANELLE

Description: Jordanelle Reservoir is located above the beautiful Heber Valley in Wasatch County. Jordanelle Reservoir has three distinct recreation areas, Hailstone, Rock Cliff, and Ross Creek, which offer a variety of recreational opportunities. Whether you plan on spending a day, weekend or more, Jordanelle offers some of the best picnicking, camping, boating, fishing, or hiking that you will find in the great state of Utah. Jordanelle Reservoir is filled by the Provo River and, along with Deer Creek Reservoir, helps provide culinary water to users in Wasatch, Utah and Salt Lake Counties.

Notes: [Jordanelle Reservoir Fishery Management Plan](#)

Location: Wasatch County

Directions: Approximately 35 miles east of Salt Lake City. Hailstone (main boat ramp, campgrounds, event center, rentals, office) – Take I-80 east to US 40 south, then take the Mayflower exit (#8)

Rock Cliff (nature center, tent campground, small boat ramp, river access) – Take I-80 east to US 40 south, at the traffic light turn left to U 32 east, travel about 7.5 miles then left on Rock Cliff Road

Ross Creek - Take I-80 east to US 40 south, take Park City exit (#4). Turn left on UT-248, head south to Longview Dr, turn right and head south to the trailhead. [Get Directions](#)

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Kokanee Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Utah Chub, Wiper, Yellow Perch

Possible to catch: Black Crappie, Cutthroat Trout/Bonneville, Largemouth bass, Splake, Tiger Muskie, Utah Sucker

MANTUA

Description: Mantua Reservoir small-sized reservoir located between Brigham City and Logan. It is a popular destination for panfish and offers trophy opportunities for bluegill.

Location: Box Elder County

Directions: From Brigham City travel east on Hwy 89 for 5 miles to the town of Mantua.

Likely to catch: Bluegill, Largemouth bass, Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat trout, Yellow Perch

Possible to catch: Green Sunfish, Smallmouth Bass, Channel Catfish

MINERSVILLE

Description: Minersville Reservoir is a 900-acre impoundment of the Beaver River in southwestern Utah. The reservoir sits at 5,500 feet in elevation and is primarily surrounded by BLM land, though there is some private property near the northeast end. A county run park offers a boat ramp, campground, and several amenities (www.beaver.utah.gov). Access is by Utah Highway 21 and several gravel roads on both the east and west shores. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources owns a 2,000 acre-foot conservation pool that helps preserve fish populations through all but the most extreme of drought years.

Minersville Reservoir has a reputation for growing large rainbow trout due to its high productivity. Trout have historically faced three primary challenges at Minersville: water fluctuation, predation by piscivorous birds, and competition with Utah chubs. The conservation pool prevents the reservoir from being drawn down to lethal levels. However, at this elevation, hot summer temperatures when the water is low can exert additional stress on trout, especially when competing with chubs. Cormorants and pelicans migrate through the area in large numbers in the spring and have been known to wipe out an entire stocking of trout. Utah chubs can get very dense in Minersville and then impact trout survival and growth through competition.

In the late 1990s, a new management strategy was put in place to help address these three issues. First, the size of rainbow trout at stocking was elevated to 10 inches to help them avoid bird predation and better compete with chubs. (A later change to stocking in the fall has further improved survival and growth.) Second, restrictive fishing regulations were initiated to protect trout and allow them to grow to larger size. These include a tackle restriction allowing only artificial flies and lures, as well as a trout limit of just one fish, that must be over 22 inches in length. The shift to stocking larger rainbow trout meant that numbers had to be decreased and heavy harvest could not be sustained. These changes were successful in producing a high-quality rainbow trout fishery, in spite of what could easily be marginal conditions.

The Minersville trout fishery performed very well with the new management strategy, except during extreme drought years, when competition with Utah chubs tipped the balance and survival decreased. Other fish species - including smallmouth bass and Bear Lake cutthroat trout - were introduced in hopes that they would prey on chubs and reduce the competition threat. Although smallmouth bass established a healthy population and often grow to over three pounds, they were never able to impact chub density. Cutthroat trout showed only minimal success and stocking was eventually discontinued.

By 2011, a new option for Utah chub control was available with hybrid wipers (white bass x striped bass). These sterile predators were successful in nearly eradicating golden shiners in

nearby Newcastle Reservoir. It was hoped that wipers would be able to reduce chubs in Minersville, though eradication wasn't expected due to chubs' larger maximum size. Wiper stocking commenced in 2011 and has continued annually. Wipers performed even better than expected, decreasing chub density to minimal levels. Wipers have grown to 8-10 pounds and are providing an exciting new addition to the Minersville fishery. Another benefit is that they provide a fish that anglers can harvest - and they have a delicious, mild flavor. Trout have also benefited greatly from the reduction in chub density. Historically, extreme drought conditions like that of the mid 2010s would have severely impacted trout growth and survival. Thanks to the low chub density provided by wiper predation, excessive losses of rainbow trout were not observed. The addition of wipers has proved to be one of the most beneficial adjustments to the overall sport fishery at Minersville Reservoir.

Other fish species that have been added to Minersville Reservoir in recent years are largemouth bass and brown trout. The addition of largemouth bass was prompted by request from anglers. Although it is currently unknown if they will successfully establish in Minersville, some of the fish originally stocked have been caught by anglers and showed favorable growth. The cancellation of Bear Lake cutthroat trout stocking allowed for the raising of more brown trout in the hatchery. Brown trout typically perform better in warmer water conditions and they grow to quality size in the Beaver River below Minersville Reservoir. Browns tend to prefer flowing water, however, so it remains to be seen how many will stay in the reservoir.

Notes: Ice fishing in the winter can be productive at Minersville Reservoir, as long as temperatures are cold enough to produce safe ice. Since bait is not allowed, frequent jigging is often the key to getting fish to bite.

Minersville Reservoir is ice-free by late February to early March during most years. Rainbow trout begin to cruise the shorelines as soon as the ice is gone, looking for gravel to spawn on. Spring feeding also picks up in the shallows when they are not spawning. Fly fishing from shore is very popular from early March into mid April. The area around the county park is particularly popular due to easy access and an abundance of gravel shores. Pressure can be fairly heavy in this area, even on weekdays. Trout are often very close to the shore at this time, so casting too far or fishing from a boat or tube will likely take your tackle well beyond most of the fish. If you do fish from a boat or tube, cast toward the shore. Most anglers fish various midge and nymph patterns under a strike indicator. Allowing the breeze to drift the fly all the way into the shore can be very effective. You can also strip streamers through the shallows to get some aggressive takes.

As you move into May and June, trout begin to move to deeper water, but still stay fairly active. This is the time to drag a streamer along the bottom from your float tube. Trolling crankbaits from a boat can also be effective. During early morning and late evening, you'll often see trout move back into the shallows to feed on midge hatches. Keep your dry flies handy for some exciting action. Mid-summer water temperature can be fairly high at the surface, so try to bring the fish in and release it quickly to avoid additional stress. Smallmouth bass start getting active as the water warms up over 60 degrees. Because scented plastics are considered as bait, most bass anglers cast cranks and other hard "baits" along the shore because finding unscented plastics can be difficult. Wipers also get active as the water warms. With chub numbers down, wipers have switched to feeding on crayfish more and tend to be more nocturnal. Fishing before dawn

and after dusk often provides the best success. Use the same bass tackle to target wipers. You can also throw streamers for wipers, but it would be best to use a heavier rod - at least an 8 weight and 10 would be even better. Wiper schools are often very visible during the day, so don't hesitate to throw a cast when you do see them. Just try to stay back a little to avoid spooking the fish.

Other places to fish near Minersville Reservoir include the upper and lower sections of the Beaver River, as well as the Tushar (Beaver) Mountain lakes.

Location: Beaver County, west of Beaver

Directions: About 15 miles west of Beaver via SR-21

Likely to catch: Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Wiper

Possible to catch: Brown Trout, Largemouth bass, Utah Chub

NEWTON

Description: Newton Reservoir is formed by Newton Dam, Newton Project, on Clarkston Creek. Recreation at Newton Reservoir is directly managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. The recreation area is situated in an open setting with shoreline trees consisting of cottonwoods and willows. Elevation at the reservoir is 4,770-feet. Managed recreation season is June through September with relatively low use. The site has primitive facilities and no on-site manager or law enforcement. Use at your own risk. All-weather access.

Location: Located just off Route 142 west of Trenton

Likely to catch: Black Crappie, Bluegill, Largemouth bass, Yellow Perch

Possible to catch: Channel Catfish, Tiger Muskie

OTTER CREEK

Description: Otter Creek Reservoir is an impoundment of Otter Creek located about 50 miles south of Richfield, near the town of Antimony, at an elevation of 6,372 ft. At 2,500 acres, this is one of the primary irrigation storage reservoirs in the Sevier River basin and is one of the oldest dam projects in Utah. Although there is no conservation pool, water users generally leave enough water in the reservoir to maintain the fishery, except in years of extreme drought. Mean depth is 20 feet and maximum depth is 37 feet. [Otter Creek State Park](#) and the [Otter Creek RV Park and Marina](#) are located at the south end of the lake, providing camping, food, launch ramps, boat rentals, and gas. Numerous county roads provide shore access to most of the reservoir as well, especially on the west shore. Primitive camping is allowed on BLM land accessed by these roads. Some access points also have restrooms.

Otter Creek Reservoir is Utah's premier rainbow trout fishery. It is one of the most productive lakes around, with stocked rainbow trout gaining over an inch of growth a month at times. The reservoir is one of our most popular fisheries and literally pumps out thousands of pounds of rainbow trout each year. (In fact, we know it's almost 117,000 lbs because we measured.) A [2016 angler survey](#) found that anglers come from all over Utah (as well as a few other states) to fish at Otter Creek and they get to enjoy almost unprecedented catch rates, even during the "slow" periods in the heat of the summer. The average rainbow trout harvested measures 16 inches and weighs two pounds!

Rainbow trout face two significant challenges at Otter Creek Reservoir: water fluctuation and Utah chubs. All of the water is allocated to irrigation use, so the reservoir can be drawn very low or even drained completely. The Sevier River Water Users Association understands the value of

the Otter Creek fishery, however, and they have done a wonderful job of maintaining enough water to sustain the fish population in the last 15 years. Drought conditions of the mid to late 2010s likely would have decimated fishing opportunity at Otter Creek Reservoir if water users had managed irrigation releases differently. Despite this management, rainbow trout can still face tough temperature and clarity conditions during hot, dry years when the water level is low.

Utah chubs also present problems to trout growth and survival at Otter Creek Reservoir. These fish compete heavily with trout and can become very dense in Utah's reservoirs. When conditions are good, Otter Creek rainbow trout can compete well with Utah chubs - regardless of how dense chubs are - and quickly grow into sizes where competition is less detrimental. Low water levels, however, often lead to poor conditions where trout struggle to compete. This is why it is so important that a minimum amount of water is maintained in Otter Creek Reservoir. In the past, the reservoir was often treated with rotenone during periods of low water or draining in order to knock back the chub population. These efforts yielded only temporary results, however, because chubs are abundant upstream and cannot be completely eradicated. Introductions of fish species that prey on chubs have been attempted, with variable or mixed results so far. Ultimately, improved water management has the greatest potential for maintaining Otter Creek's fishery.

Although rainbow trout make up the majority of fish targeted and caught at Otter Creek Reservoir, other fish species are present and can add some variety to your fishing experience. Smallmouth bass maintain only a limited population because the reservoir lacks extensive rocky habitat that smallmouth prefer. Although numbers aren't high, smallmouth often show impressive growth up to four pounds. Brown trout occasionally enter the reservoir from the tributaries and fish exceeding 11 pounds have been observed. Brown trout prefer streams and rivers, however, so numbers in the reservoir tend to be low. Regular stocking of brown trout has been added in recent years to increase the chance of catching these fish.

Hybrid wipers (striped bass x white bass) were added to the Otter Creek Reservoir fishery in the last 10 years in an attempt to alleviate the negative impacts of Utah chubs. These sterile, voracious open water predators have been very successful at reducing undesirable fish species in other nearby waters (Minersville and Newcastle reservoirs) in a relatively short period of time. Results have been a little more mixed at Otter Creek, however. We've seen variable catch of wipers in our annual netting surveys, making it difficult to evaluate their overall survival. Anglers also rarely catch wipers, likely because the vast majority are using tackle that targets rainbow trout and is ignored by wipers. Even though the observed numbers have sometimes been low, every wiper we've seen has been healthy and some have showed very impressive growth up to eight pounds. Clearly, those wipers that are surviving are doing very well feeding on the abundant chubs. The good news is that the 2019 netting survey found wipers in multiple size classes distributed all around the reservoir. It is hoped that this means that increased stocking in recent years is doing a better job of building up the wiper population and that we'll see fewer chubs in the future. Wipers should have foraged and grown really well in 2019, as we also saw a large increase in chub numbers after the draining of Koosharem Reservoir in fall 2018 flushed a lot of those fish downstream to Otter Creek.

The Otter Creek rainbow trout population is typically dominated by two size classes. 1) Those fish stocked at seven inches during the previous fall, which may now measure from 8 to 14

inches depending on the time of year (remember they're growing fast during that first year in the reservoir). 2) "Older" trout that have been in the reservoir more than a year and may measure from 16 to 20 inches. In addition to these most abundant groups, there are plenty of fish that surpass 20 inches into the realm where we characterize them by weight instead of length. Four- to five-pound fish are common and we hear of a few rainbows over six pounds being caught every year.

The vast majority of Otter Creek anglers use bait, regardless of whether they're fishing from the shore, ice, or a boat. By far, the most popular choice is Power Bait and it works well for one simple reason: it smells like hatchery food. Rainbow trout imprint on that scent more than any other fish, even if they've only spent a few months eating it. That doesn't mean, however, that other tackle choices won't work. Try trolling lures or pop gear from your boat. Don't hesitate to use jigs through the ice. Fly anglers can find excellent fishing in spring and fall, especially during evening midge hatches. Drifting beadhead nymphs along gravel shorelines and points, or dragging streamers behind a float tube can be very effective.

Your fishing experience at Otter Creek Reservoir will vary depending on the time of year and how you fish. Although fishing success can be good at any time of year, spring provides the highest catch rates - sometimes reaching the realm of "ludicrous". Ice-off typically happens anytime from late February to mid March. Rainbow trout head to the shallows in search of food and a place to spawn. While some fish will feed less while they are spawning, there are so many around that there will always be plenty of rainbows that are actively feeding. When those fish are in shallow, just about any technique can produce good fishing.

Now for a disclaimer about catch rates: Sometimes fishing slows down at Otter Creek because food is so abundant that feeding is easy. Rainbow trout get stuffed and too lazy to chase down what you've thrown at them. (Picture yourself, motionless on the couch after Thanksgiving dinner. Even that piece of pumpkin pie sitting right next to you isn't appetizing.) This often happens during good water years when the reservoir fills up quickly in the spring. We always get several phone calls at that time from anglers worried that they didn't catch their limit of four in less than an hour and they're wondering what is "wrong". Don't worry, the fish are still there, they're just tougher to catch. Remember, Otter Creek often spoils you with such great fishing that you forget what "slow" fishing really is.

As the weather warms up in May and June, rainbow trout head back out to the middle of the lake to find cooler temperatures. Fishing from boats is much more effective during the summer, whether you're stillfishing bait or trolling. You can still find some trout closer to shore around the steeper shorelines on the south end of the reservoir, but most of the reservoir will not provide good shore fishing. The reason that you're only catching chubs from the bank in August is that the water temperature in the shallows is in the 70s and trout don't like that. Throw some of those chubs in the freezer and save them for later.

Trout will start to head back to the shallows in the fall and you'll see an improvement in shore fishing. Algae blooms can mess up fall fishing, however, especially on low water years or when the summer is hot and dry. If the weather turns cold fast enough, you might see all the algae die off and settle out. If not, fishing from a boat may still be your best bet. Rainbows are typically stocked in late October or November, so don't be surprised when you suddenly start catching a

bunch of small fish. Ice typically caps Otter Creek Reservoir in mid to late December. Because this is a "middle" elevation (6,000 ft), ice condition can sometimes be variable. Be very careful on the ice - especially during the early season - and stay clear of pressure ridges. Most anglers like to ice fish shallow at Otter Creek - less than 12 feet of depth - but don't be afraid to head out deeper if the fishing is slow. In addition to Power Bait, folks will tip their small jigs and ice flies with the typical favorites like meal worms, wax worms, and nightcrawlers. Here is another technique that you might find surprisingly effective: take those chubs you caught in August out of the freezer. Cut them up into small pieces and tip your ice jigs. Even though rainbow trout are not generally fish predators, they still like that smell and cut bait can provide great success when the other baits are being ignored. Also, don't be afraid to move around when ice fishing. Trout can be really affected by fishing pressure in the winter and they may just vacate an area that the crowds have been concentrating on.

Smallmouth bass and wipers are most active during warmer months, when water temperature rises over 60 degrees. For smallmouth, target rocky shorelines with plastics and lures that imitate crayfish and chubs. Wipers likely feed mostly on chubs, but they may also attack a crayfish imitation. Try trolling chub-imitating lures in open water. Low-light periods like dawn and dusk are often more effective times to catch wipers. Fishing with cut bait at night may also be effective.

Notes: Late summer is often a stressful time for trout as water temperature increases and feeding may become a little tougher. When fish get stressed, their slime coat gets thinner and they become more susceptible to the naturally occurring parasites that are just waiting around to attack. This is very common at Otter Creek Reservoir, especially during low water years and summers that are particularly hot and dry. The most common parasite seen is called Black Spot Disease - not kidding. It is, literally, a bunch of black spots that you see on the side of the trout fillet when you skin it. Although it is not appetizing to look at, the meat is safe to eat as long as you cook it thoroughly. You may also see patches of white fungus or another parasite that seems to eat right through the skin into the body cavity. This last one is fairly rare, but has shown up a time or two. These parasites start to disappear when the water cools down in the fall and the fish are better equipped to fight them off. There have been times, however, during extreme drought years that the parasite infections lasted far into the winter.

The parasite that causes whirling disease is known to occur in Otter Creek Reservoir. Please prevent the spread of whirling disease by thoroughly cleaning mud from your watercraft and waders after fishing here and letting them dry completely before fishing at another location. Do not transport fish or their parts from Otter Creek Reservoir to other waters.

Other nearby places to fish include Otter Creek (the stream), the East Fork of the Sevier River (Kingston Canyon and Black Canyon), Pine Lake, Koosharem Reservoir, Fish Lake, Monroe Mountain lakes, and Piute Reservoir.

Location: Piute County

Directions: South on Hwy 89 from Richfield. East 11 miles on U-62 from the junction US 89 and U-62. Where U-62 turns north, continue east for 0.5 miles on U-22

Likely to catch: Rainbow Trout

Possible to catch: Brown Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Utah Chub, Wiper

PELICAN

Description: Pelican Lake has a nice boat ramp, restrooms and covered picnic tables. There is primitive camping on the south shore and on the DWR Sportsmans Access ground on the north side. There is also a primitive boat ramp on the DWR Sportsmans Access land. The lake is surrounded by bulrush which provides fish and waterfowl habitat. The surrounding terrain is sage brush, greasewood and cattails with some cottonwood and willow trees. There is a beautiful view of the south slope of the Uinta Mountains. Wind tends to pick up here in the afternoon pushing many of the small boats off. Be aware of wind conditions, especially in smaller boats. Do not get in the water during the summer due to swimmers itch. A new management plan for this water was created in 2015 and is currently being implemented. The plan identified the need to eradicate common carp in order to restore the renowned Blue Ribbon status for bluegill. This treatment occurred in October 2018. Along with the treatment a large-scale sediment control plan with 3 phases of projects is set to begin in August of 2019.

Notes: Despite the DWR's best efforts, biologists have observed common carp in Pelican Lake this spring. DWR crews have been out repeatedly removing all carp captured, in an effort to control the population before they overrun the system. To date, biologists have removed only a few adult carp but numerous juvenile carp. Given this very distressing observation, and that Pelican does not yet have the number of predators required to control the carp, DWR biologists have chosen to stock over 12,000 tiger muskie into Pelican Lake to help. The tiger muskie is a sterile hybrid, so the population in the lake will always be less than what has been stocked (we know many get eaten before they have a chance to grow). We will continue to stock this species until there are enough predators in the system-including both the largemouth bass and the tiger muskie. This does mean that recovery of Pelican Lake will take a little longer; however, it also gives us a chance to better control the carp population. Without enough predators in the system, the carp will overrun the lake again. Given all the removal efforts on the lake, crews are seeing a reduction in carp numbers captured each time they go out. However, the new year class of carp will be emerging soon and they will be numerous. The good news is that there will be predators ready to eat them!

Location: Uintah County

Directions: Take SR-88 south from Highway 40 for about 10 miles to Randlett Highway. Turn onto this highway and go straight to reach the boat ramp or take an immediate left off the Randlett Highway and follow the signs for sportsmans access.

Likely to catch: Bluegill, Largemouth bass

Possible to catch: Black Bullhead Catfish

PINEVIEW

Description: Pineview Reservoir is a popular destination for anglers and recreational boaters alike. During warmer weather the reservoir can be crowded with boaters and water-skiers. Plan accordingly. Access to this water is afforded at several locations year-round. Whether pan-fishing for crappie or perch or setting out to catch a trophy tiger muskie, anglers will find plenty of action in a beautiful setting at Pineview Reservoir. The chance of catching a trophy tiger muskie is what makes this water truly Blue Ribbon. Anglers are reminded to carefully release all tiger muskellunge caught. Proper catch and release of these toothy critters may require the use of special tools like large boat nets and long pliers.

Location: Weber County

Directions: From Ogden's 12th Street, take Hwy 39 and head east five miles up Ogden Canyon to the reservoir.

Likely to catch: Black Crappie, Largemouth bass, Smallmouth Bass, Tiger Muskie, Yellow Perch

Possible to catch: Black Bullhead Catfish, Bluegill, Common Carp, Green Sunfish

ROCKPORT

Description: Rockport Reservoir, also known as Wanship Reservoir, is a medium size reservoir located between Coalville and Kamas. Public access is unrestricted, but state park fees are charged to use park facilities.

Location: Summit County

Directions: From I-80 at Wanship head south on Hwy 189 for about two miles.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch

SCOFIELD

Description: Scofield Reservoir is a 2,800 acre impoundment at the top of the Price River drainage in eastern Utah. It sits at an elevation of 7,600 feet and is located near the northeastern part of the Manti La-Sal National Forest.

Notes: Historically Scofield Reservoir was known for its rainbow trout fishery. In the mid-2000's, invasive Utah chub became more abundant in the reservoir. Management changes included the addition of tiger and Bear lake cutthroat trout and the implementation of a slot limit to enhance the number of trout predators in the lake. In 2017 the Scofield Management plan was implemented which added tiger muskellunge and wipers to the fishery to add additional predation of the Utah chub.

Location: Located at the top of Price Canyon approximately 35 miles from Price, Utah in northern Carbon County.

Directions: From Spanish Fork Canyon take US Hwy 6 east 42 miles, turn right on UT 96 11 miles. From Price, UT take US Hwy 6 west 24 miles, turn left on UT 96 11 miles.

Likely to catch: Cutthroat Trout/Bear Lake, Rainbow Trout, Tiger Muskie, Tiger Trout

Possible to catch: Wiper

SETTLEMENT CANYON

Description: A short 45 minutes from Salt Lake City, Settlement Canyon Reservoir is located at the base of Settlement Canyon in Tooele County. Fishing from watercraft (boats, kayaks, float tubes) of any kind is prohibited at Settlement Canyon Reservoir. With the reservoir being tucked away from heavy traffic and only open to shore fishing it is a great, relaxing place to fish with the kids. Also a great spot for the ice fishing season. Camping (primitive, RV, group), group pavilion, playground, amphitheater and hiking are available farther up the canyon from the reservoir.

Location: Tooele County, south of Tooele City

Directions: From Tooele City Hall, proceed south on Main Street (SR-36) for 2.2 miles to Settlement Canyon Road. Turn left and continue one-half mile to entrance gate. Stop and see gate attendant before proceeding. Campground is less than one mile after entrance gate.

Likely to catch: Rainbow Trout, Tiger Trout, Wiper

STARVATION

Description: Starvation is a long, deep reservoir set in a panoramic valley with a view of the south slope of the Uinta Mountains. There is a large concrete boat ramp and two boat docks in the main state park and several makeshift ramps in all the larger bays. There are four camping areas around the lake run by Utah State Parks. The main park has showers and a fish cleaning station. Anglers typically catch a lot of walleye and smallmouth bass in the summer and winter is the best time to catch yellow perch. Lots of rainbow trout and brown trout can be caught year-round but anglers typically catch more rainbows than browns. Kokanee salmon are a new species in the reservoir and anglers began catching them in 2017. We are still evaluating the performance of kokanee salmon in the reservoir but anticipate that anglers will catch decent numbers of them in 2019. Kokanee salmon are usually easiest to catch from a boat.

Notes: Yellow Perch numbers are still low in the reservoir. Results from 2019 forage netting's will be posted in August.

Location: Duchesne County

Directions: Go two miles northwest of the town of Duchesne

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Kokanee Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Walleye, Yellow Perch. Smallmouth Bass

Possible to catch: Black Crappie, Bluegill, Common Carp, Utah Chub

NOTE: There is a separate and more complete informational and pictorial attachment available for Starvation.

STRAWBERRY

Description: Strawberry Reservoir is one of Utah's largest reservoirs. It is located just an hour and a half from Salt Lake City. The reservoir is known for producing large Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout and is one of the best Kokanee Salmon fisheries in Utah. Strawberry Reservoir has several boat ramps and enough shoreline access for people to spread out. The Rainbow Trout in Strawberry Reservoir can be easily caught from shore which makes Strawberry a great place to take the family to catch fish.

Notes: Most of the fishing pressure and catch occurs from boats. Shoreline fishing is best during the cooler seasons of spring and fall. Recent data collected from UDWR nets shows that the Kokanee Salmon population in Strawberry Reservoir is doing well. We project that Kokanee fishing will be good during summer 2019.

Location: Wasatch County

Directions: 23 miles southeast of Heber City, Utah on Hwy. 40

Likely to catch: Cutthroat Trout/Bonneville, Kokanee Salmon, Rainbow Trout

UTAH LAKE

Special Alert: Remember personal ice safety gear, and use extreme caution when venturing out onto the ice; fish at least 4-inches of ice - no fish is worth risking a life!

Description: Utah Lake is Utah's largest freshwater lake and is a popular fishing destination. It offers channel catfish, walleye, white bass, black bass and several different species of panfish. June Sucker, a federally endangered species, occur naturally in Utah Lake and nowhere else. June Sucker move into the tributaries of Utah Lake to spawn during from April to July each year. Utah Lake State Park provides public east shore access to the 96,600-acre lake for power boating, sailing, canoeing or kayaking, and also provides camping and day-use facilities. The lake bed is dominated by mud and silt making Utah Lake highly turbid. Utah Lake is also extremely shallow with an average depth of 9.8ft. Additional access points exist, but access for

anglers to the lake may be difficult due to vegetation. Therefore these access points were not included.

Notes: Northern Pike have been **illegally introduced** into Utah Lake and have the ability to negatively impact the fish community. There is no harvest limit on northern pike. Anglers must release any tagged northern pike they catch. All **untagged** northern pike must be immediately removed from the water and killed.

*If you catch a tagged northern pike in Utah Lake or one of its tributaries, please do the following:

- Contact the DWR at 801-491-5658
- Report the date and exact location where you caught the fish
- Report the tag number
- Release the fish unharmed

Location: Utah County

Directions: Access from many locations in Utah County. The state park is three miles west of I-15, from exit 268 in Provo. For more information on conditions, call Utah Lake State Park at (801) 375-0731

Invasive Species to catch: Northern Pike

Likely to catch: Black Bullhead Catfish, Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Walleye, White Bass

Possible to catch: Black Crappie, Bluegill, Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout/Bonneville, Green Sunfish, Largemouth bass, Yellow Perch

Protected Species to catch: June Sucker

NOTE: There is a separate and more complete informational and pictorial attachment available for Utah Lake.

VERNON

Description: Vernon Reservoir is located in Utah's west desert and was created for irrigation purposes. The area around the reservoir and up the canyon is popular for OHV riding, camping, and fishing. Fishing from shore is popular, but motorized boats (no gas motors) are permitted. This is an open setting with no drinking water and no garbage service - please come prepared. Please pack out your garbage and consider picking up what others have left behind. There are several camping areas large enough for a trailer.

Location: South of Vernon in Tooele County

Directions: From Vernon, take SR-36 south 0.6 miles to Benmore sign/FS005. Turn right on FS005, dirt rad, and head south for approximately six miles.

Likely to catch: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Tiger Trout

WILLARD BAY

Description: Willard Bay is a large man made reservoir in the Northern Region just west of Interstate 15. This reservoir contains walleye, wiper, channel catfish, yellow perch, black crappie, sunfish, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, common carp and gizzard shad. Two areas, North and South Marinas, offer all the amenities for a weekend at the Bay.

Location: Box Elder County

Directions: Traveling north on I 15, take the exit just north of Smith & Edwards and go west following the signs or go to the Willard exit and go west.

Likely to catch: Black Crappie, Channel Catfish, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Wiper

Possible to catch: Bluegill, Common Carp, Green Sunfish, Largemouth bass, Yellow Perch

NOTE: There is a separate and more complete informational and pictorial attachment available for Willard Bay.

YUBA

Description: Yuba State Park offers several recreation areas: Oasis, East Beach, Painted Rock, and North and West Beaches. Though amenities vary by area, general park amenities include: Boat ramp, tent and RV camping, boat-in camping, day and group-use areas, restrooms, showers, and sewage disposal. Reservations may be made online at stateparks.utah.gov or by calling (801) 322-3770 within the Salt Lake City area or toll-free at (800) 322-3770.

Notes: Access to Yuba Reservoir varies with water level. Boats can not launch from Painted Rocks at less than 23% capacity and at Oasis at less than 7%. Do not drive on dark (wet) sand during low water conditions. At full capacity Yuba has a maximum depth of 80 feet.

To check current water-level please visit <http://www.sevierriver.org/reservoirs/yuba-reservoir/>.

Location: South of Levan, North of Fayette

Directions: To Oasis: Take I-15 exit #202 and follow the county road to the park entrance. To Painted Rocks: Take I-15 exit #222 in Nephi and head south on UT-28 toward Levan. In Levan take a left staying on UT-28. Head south on UT-28 for approximately 15 miles, park turnoff will be on your right.

Likely to catch: Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Northern Pike, Rainbow Trout, Tiger Muskie

Possible to catch: Smallmouth Bass, Tiger Trout, Utah Sucker, Walleye, Wiper, Yellow Perch